



CARES COMMUNIQUE

JANUARY 2003

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Bath VA Medical Center

76 Veterans Avenue, Bath, NY 14810

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VISIT THE CARES WEBSITES

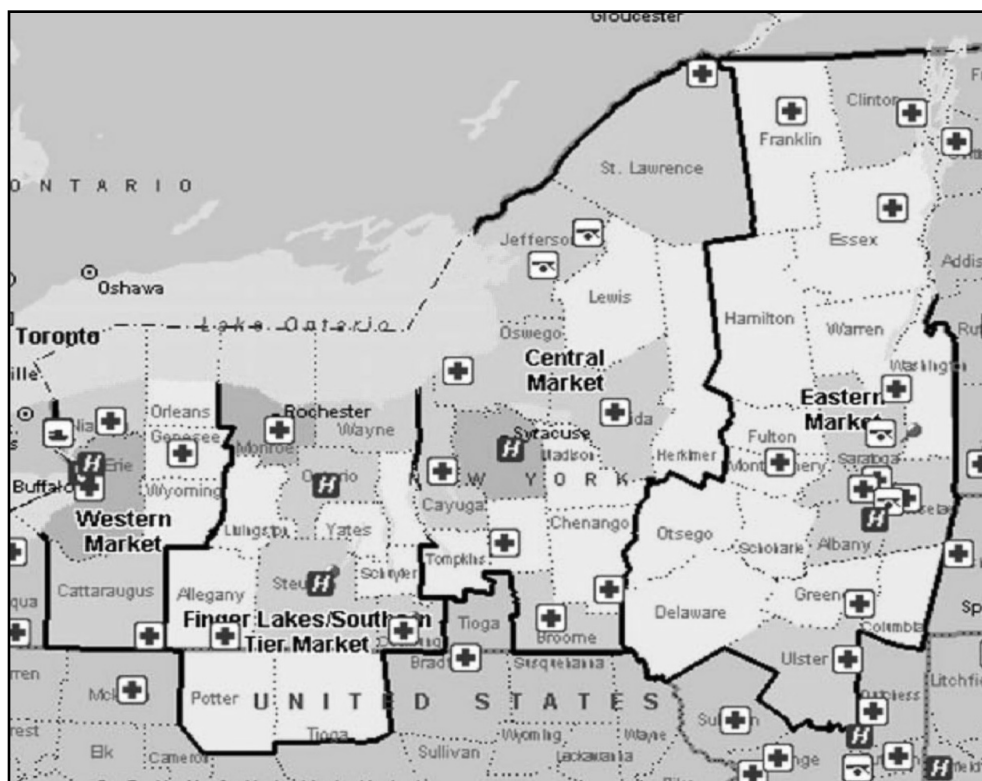
NATIONAL: www.va.gov/CARES

NETWORK 2: www.va.gov/visns/visn02/cares

Network Receives Planning Initiatives

As part of our continuing efforts to keep you informed about the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES), the Bath VA Medical Center is providing the following updates to our stakeholders and employees.

In November, the VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York which consists of the Medical Centers in Syracuse (Central Market), Albany (Eastern Market), Bath and Canandaigua (Finger Lakes/Southern Tier Market), and Buffalo (Western Market), received Planning Initiatives



(PI's) from VA Central Office for each of its market areas. The PI's are based on standard workload categories that address estimated gaps in health care service for the year 2012 and for 2022. The PI's that were focused on nationally were: access to primary care, access to hospital care, medicine beds for inpatient care, surgery beds, psychiatry beds, outpatient primary care, specialty care, mental health, and small facility that require less than 40 acute care beds.

Planning initiatives that were discussed but taken off the table due to additional data that is needed or data that is currently being updated before PI's can be established were: nursing home care, domiciliary housing, and outpatient mental health.

NOTE: The CARES planning process will annually review work load data and veteran demographics and revise or change PI's accordingly.

Planning Initiatives Identified for the Bath VA Medical Center

During the month of December, Bath VA staff held numerous meetings with stakeholders to present the PI's identified for the Finger Lakes/Southern Tier Market area and ask for stakeholder input in coming up with solutions to the gaps identified in services.

There were no PI's identified for primary care, hospital care, tertiary care, or outpatient care access. Nor was there a small facility planning initiative. The PI's identified for the Finger Lakes/Southern Tier Market area that needed to be addressed were an increase in medical inpatient and surgical beds, and a significant increase in demand for primary and specialty care.

We are continuing our efforts to review the CARES data, collect additional data, solicit stakeholder comments and come up with solutions to address the PI's identified for our market area. We will then draft a market plan based on the recommendations we arrive at and submit to VA Central Office in April. VA Central Office will then review our market plan along with the other VA Networks and publish the Draft National CARES Plan in June. There will be a 60 day public comment period with public hearings held before the CARES Commission forwards its final recommendations to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs in September. (The CARES Commission is an independent group appointed by the Secretary). In October the Secretary will then either accept or reject the CARES Commission's CARES plan.

We want to thank all our stakeholders for their time and comments. It is not too late to send us your ideas. Please use the following CARES Comment Card.

CARES Comment Card

Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

If you have a comment about the CARES process, please complete this card and drop it in the CARES Comment Box located in the Veterans Service Center or mail it to the Public Affairs Officer at your local VA Medical Center.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Please check one:

☐ Veteran

☐ Veteran Patient

☐ Veteran Employee

☐ VA Employee

☐ Volunteer

☐ Community Resident

How did you learn about CARES?

☐ Veterans Service Organization

☐ Meeting

☐ Media

☐ Newsletter

☐ Community Forum

☐ Other _____

Do you understand the information given to you about CARES?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you think CARES will enable the VA to provide better health care to more of our nation's veterans?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please put any additional comments below:

What Does This Mean for Upstate New York?

- CARES will change only the way VA health care is delivered.
- VA health care services will not be reduced.
- Similar to the community, VA health care will continue to shift from hospital-based care to outpatient care.
- The veteran population continues to migrate south resulting in a decline in the veteran population in Upstate New York.
- The VA will stop funneling financial resources into underused, vacant and aging buildings and use those resources to provide health care to veterans.
- Provide more specialty outpatient services.
- Provide improved access to veterans living in outlying counties.